



## In Appreciation

Most of this issue of THE FRANCISCAN STAFF is devoted to remembering and celebrating the pastorate of The Rev. Daniel J. Messier, Rector of St. Francis in the Valley from October, 2011 to his last Sunday with us, February 24, 2019. And we also remember and celebrate the presence among us of Phyllis, Fr. Dan's indispensable helpmate, whose warm and generous personality has always been a source of welcome and good will.

If all this sounds a bit like an obituary, let it be known that Fr. Dan's and Phyllis' time with us—all too short—was as far from morose as you could possibly get. Will any of us who were around at the time forget Fr. Dan's first Parish Barbecue and the dunking stool (see picture, page 4) or, on another Parish occasion (see picture, page 5), the 'steam punk' costumes?

But of course there's much more than that. We learned early on that Fr. Dan was a great teacher, a fine liturgist, a sympathetic listener, a sure hand in difficult times, and a strong leader in all facets of Parish life.

A number of remembrances and tributes are included in this issue: the four Senior Wardens who served with Fr. Dan during his tenure at St. Francis have written tributes to him; and we have included a few photographs aimed at lightening our hearts a bit as we bid the fondest of fond farewells to Fr. Dan and Phyllis.

Remember them in your prayers as they venture forth into new and exciting adventures or, perhaps, just lounging on the beach. Whatever it turns out to be, we wish them Godspeed.

# THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

The Newsletter of the people of  
Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church  
600 South La Cañada Drive  
Green Valley AZ 85614

Vol. 56, No. 2

February 2019

---

*Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.*

---

## From our Rector . . .

Dear Friends,

I guess this is my last "from the Rector" note to you. I write this with a huge lump in my throat. As the time of my retirement gets closer I'm realizing how truly difficult it's going to be to leave all of you. Your lives have become so interwoven with mine it feels like a part of me is being ripped away. This, I know, is all part of the grieving process we go through when we experience loss, departure of loved ones, and letting go of friends.

As I've often said, God saved the best ministry for the last. I'm so happy that by the grace of God we were brought together. When I think back, the only reason I even thought of checking openings for churches in Arizona was because one of my sisters moved to the state. I guess she was hugely instrumental in my being here.

I'm not sure what the future holds. At this time I'm not looking to be involved in ministry in another church after we move (I've already had the best with you here). Both Phyllis and I plan on getting involved in other areas of interest that we haven't been able to focus on before. And for fun? Who knows, there might be at least one experience of skydiving over the Gulf waters in my near future. Parasailing seems like a fun thing to try. I know there's a zip line nearby. Maybe we'll even get a chance to swim with the dolphins.

Phyllis and I have so many warm memories of our time here with you. I hope you know that you will always hold a special place in our hearts. You truly are a special congregation and I know you will flourish under new leadership.

Please keep us in your prayers and you will certainly be in ours.

With much love and affection,

*Fr. Dan*

## From our Assistant Rector...

All Episcopal seminarians in their last year of seminary are focused primarily on three things: (1) passing the General Ordination Exam, (2) finding a good position as an assistant rector (or curate) in a great parish with a great rector to step into after graduation, and (3) graduat-

*continued next page*

ing. Those were the things I was obsessing about at the end of 2015. At the end of the day on December 28, 2015, I knew God was taking care of the second one.

I spent that morning at St. Francis interviewing with Fr. Dan and meeting with some of the Vestry members. I had met Fr. Dan a few months before at Diocesan Convention, but the conversation was brief. This time we began to get to know each other. And it didn't take me long to figure out that this was a rector that I would be privileged to work with. A rector who was, as a friend who's a priest in the diocese had said to me, "one of the good ones."

Even then I had no idea how blessed I was. I had a good feeling about Fr. Dan, but I couldn't yet foresee how important a role model, mentor, partner in ministry and friend he would become for me. As I began my service here at St. Francis I soon discovered his dedication to teaching me all the things about being a priest that seminary never could have taught me, and his staunch support of me as his equal as a priest. I saw—and learned from—his love for all of you, his dedication to Christ and the good news of the gospels, his refusal to take things (including himself) too seriously, his trust in God's abundance, his belief in the power of the laity, his skill as a preacher, his light touch as an administrator—and, of course, his humor. Fr. Dan makes it a pleasure to come to work every day—the office is a joyful place under his leadership—and all of you who have served at the Altar on Sundays know what fun we have in the Sacristy before each service. He enlivens any space he's in.

And Phyllis—it's been an unexpected treat to find a friend in Phyllis also! We've had great fun together, and she's been an invaluable resource to me from time to time when the knowledge that she brings to La Posada as a Campus Counselor is just what I need for one of our St. Francis folks. I know that she's become a friend to many of you as well.

St. Francis and I have been very blessed to have one of the good ones. I firmly believe that the most important thing that a priest can do is simply love his or her people. And I'm in a unique position as Fr. Dan's partner in ministry to be able to see how much he truly loves you all. You are very dear to him. He'll miss you all, and of course we'll all miss him and Phyllis tremendously.

The future is bright, though, my friends. As Fr. Dan and Phyllis begin a new retirement chapter in their lives, this wonderful, healthy, joyful St. Francis family will be on a path toward calling another pastor and friend to love us, laugh with us, and lead us—another one of the good ones to be the shepherd of this flock.

*Rev. Pam*

## THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

Published monthly

except June & August by

**Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church**

600 South La Cañada Drive

Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – [www.stfrancis.azdiocese.org](http://www.stfrancis.azdiocese.org)

[www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz)

**THE RT. REV. KIRK S. SMITH, PH.D., D.D.**

Bishop

**THE REV. DANIEL J. MESSIER**

Rector

**THE REV. PAMELA W. HYDE**

Assistant Rector

### THE VESTRY

Wayne North, Senior Warden;

Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden;

Mary Beth Bates, David Dunn, Sandy Eckstein,

Larry Howell, Orji Isiogu, Larry Bear,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Helen Mullaly, Jenica Hisko,

*ex officio*: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

### CHURCH STAFF

**Gerald Near**

Parish Administrator

**Rae Turberg**

Financial Officer

**Gerald Near**

Director of Music

**Beth-el Klein**

Administrative Assistant

**George Grove**

Webmaster

**J. Michael Case**

Organist

**Sharlyn Matthews**

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

**Janet Miller**

Organist Emeritus

**John Colip**

Head Sexton

**Susan Whitney, Henry Ramirez, Clyde Tardy**

Assistant Sextons

*The mission of*

*St. Francis in the Valley, Green Valley,*

*is to live as Christ's heart and hands*

*in the world.*

## Wayne North Senior Warden

Fr. Dan has given us seven and one half years of his time, and what a blessing it has been for him to share these years with us. The time he spent serving as our pastor I'm sure came at some expense of quality family time with his wife Phyllis and children, both here and away from Green Valley.

On the vocation side of his calendar, Fr. Dan might just as easily have spent these with another parish, but he chose to accept the call to serve us here at St. Francis, and I trust that he has found this time to be as enjoyable, challenging, and as rewarding as we have.

I became a member of St. Francis shortly before Fr. Dan arrived, and along with many others had been preparing for his arrival under the care and guidance of Fr. Ed Mullins, our Interim Rector at the time. If you were around at the time, St. Francis was indeed a parish in much need of a healing presence, and Fr. Dan was just that person to bring us back together again, ready to accept new challenges, and to serve our Lord with a renewed sense of caring for one another, and in particular for St. Francis in the Valley, our spiritual home.

And Fr. Dan did present us with new challenges. I had the pleasure of serving on the Vestry during his early years with St. Francis, and I remember how he often suggested at our monthly meetings an idea he had and felt we, as a Parish, should consider. He realized St. Francis had the potential to do so much more than what we were comfortable doing.

One such suggestion was establishing a partnership with the Imago Dei Middle School in Tucson. Imago Dei is one of several schools under the "umbrella" of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation, and several of us on the Vestry met with one of the founders of the school, The Rev. Anne Sawyer, to explore Fr. Dan's vision of a partnership with the school.

Fr. Dan's excitement about this partnership was infectious and soon became one of many new "callings" for a number of parishioners at St. Francis as we set out to establish a new ministry supporting Imago Dei Middle School and its young scholars. Each spring donations are collected from our "Honorary Grandparents" to provide the graduating eighth grade scholars with a Visa Gift Card in recognition of their individual academic achievements.

The Imago Dei Middle School partnership is just one of the numerous new programs Fr. Dan brought to our attention and with which he challenged us, and last

spring nearly three dozen of us attended the School's graduation exercises as "Honorary Grandparents." In addition, nearly four dozen members of St. Francis support the School financially through the Arizona State tax credit program.

When Fr. Dan leaves us at the end of February there will be a large pair of shoes to fill. This will be our challenge, to identify and make the call for a new pastor to lead us to new achievements. With God's many blessings we will be successful in our efforts and love for St. Francis in the Valley. I'm happy to be part of your team.

## Bill Miller Senior Warden 2015-2018

What can we say about the time Father Dan has walked together with us here at St Francis? Joy and Love - Love and Joy! This is the story of the journey together of Father Dan and the St. Francis Parish during the past several years. Our Parish had just been through a rough patch when Father Dan arrived. Throughout his tenure with us he has always exhibited an aura of joy and happiness that has uplifted all of us. I have had more hugs from Father Dan than all of the other men of cloth that I have known added together! I know there were times when he personally was suffering and felt miserable. But he did not let it show through to the Parish family.

His love for others constantly shines through his ministry. The way he approaches his work exhibits his love of God and God's people. The obvious love between Father Dan and Phyllis is analogous to his relationship with our Parish. He does not need a clerical collar or vestments to be recognized as a loving Christian. There is an old song with one verse that goes something like "we will know Christians by their love." That song accurately summarizes the journey of our Parish with Father Dan.

We often try to describe the legacy that will remain after a Rector leaves. Usually we cite changes in the physical plant, program, finances or membership. We could do that for Father Dan, but then we would miss the most important legacy he leaves us. It is very simple—he has changed us!

He has constantly encouraged the members of this Parish to initiate and lead new activities to affect the world we live in one person at a time. He encouraged us to grow in Christ and to use the skills God has given us to spread Christ's Gospel. If you have a new idea he encourages you to implement it and make it work

*continued next page*



to the glory of God. Just refer to his remarks in the 2017 Annual Report about our Catechism “Q. Who are the ministers of the Church? Here’s the answer: A. The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons. What’s profound about this is the order. The very first ministers of the church are lay persons.” His legacy of joy and love has transformed the members of St. Francis Parish into leading in ministry.



The New Sheriff in town – with his girl (2012)



The New Sheriff is installed by the High Sheriff  
(the one in the funny hat)

*Carl Perry*

*Senior Warden 2009-2012*

I can still feel the excitement of picking up Fr. Dan and Phyllis at the Tucson Airport on August 29, 2011. Marge and I were serving as hosts for their first visit to St. Francis as part of the selection process of the Committee and Vestry. We were not met with a firm handshake but rather a warm smile and hug by both Dan and Phyllis. “Boy” I thought, “we’ve got something here that St. Francis needs.” What a wonderful experience we had during the three-day interview process which

concluded with taking them to Phoenix to meet Bishop Smith. I can remember not wanting them to leave and return home. They were “keepers” and I was sure both were a great fit for St. Francis.

On October 1, 2011, St. Francis began a new and exciting phase of St. Francis history. I felt very privileged to be Fr. Dan’s first Sr. Warden. He is a joy to work with, brought with him a track of great experience, and is a neat leader. I always enjoyed his depth of liturgical knowledge and his teaching skills. I looked forward to his gospel-based sermons with their beginning joke.



Is this spousal abuse?

I continued to work closely with Fr. Dan as Solar Consultant, Chairman of the Sound System Committee, and Chairman of two Stewardship Programs. Fr. Dan enhanced our communications with the Diocese through Canon Timothy Dombek, joined the Commission on Ministry Committee, and was selected to teach new Priests of our Diocese with Canon Meg Traquair. His great communications with and support of the Diocese was a great plus for St. Francis.

It was Fr. Dan’s challenge that brought about the many changes to the sound systems within St Francis. His support helped change Stewardship into an annual program rather than just a fall financial drive. He implemented a wide variety of activities to make available opportunities for expanding one’s Christian Education and to improve our relationship with Christ. His financial leadership kept the Vestry and congregation tuned into our financial challenges and priorities.

It was real joy when Phyllis joined the staff at the La Posada Campus in Green Valley. She has made a great contribution to the services available to members of La Posada and she will be greatly missed.

Most importantly, Dan and Phyllis are team builders

*continued next page*



and team players. Fun people with big hearts who wear their religion well. I also loved their “communication sessions” utilizing Dan’s love of cooking and sitting by a fire. Both are loving caring people and Marge and I wish them a long and healthy retirement. Thanks for all you have done for St Francis. You have been a joy to be around. I’ll always remember you both.



The New Sheriff and his girl (incognito)



*Bobbi Tucker*

*Senior Warden 2012-2015*

My first encounter with Fr. Dan was during the Search Committee’s preliminary Skype interview. Not knowing how to pronounce “Messier,” our Chairman, Leon Lies, started the interview by asking him: “How do you pronounce your name?” Fr. Dan promptly replied: “Dan.” Thus it began: that first inkling of his wonderful sense of humor and the witticisms and jokes to come. For some reason though, I have never expected the joke at the beginning of his sermons—it always comes as a surprise.

Fr. Dan has been a wonderful leader. It was a fulfilling experience for me to serve as his first Sr. Warden.

I had some misgivings about taking that on, but it was easy and pleasant to work with Fr. Dan in that capacity and was an enjoyable experience, as was my work with him on the Personnel and Stewardship Committees and in fulfilling my Vestry responsibilities over the years.

Fr. Dan has brought so much to St. Francis! His warmth, sensitivity and passion have been exhibited in so many ways. He excels in communicating as exemplified by his extremely meaningful sermons, expressive letters and creative writing for other written materials,



his remarkable Bible studies as well as his one-on-one encounters. With his graphic arts background he has enhanced many of the printed materials at St. Francis—like the Stewardship pamphlet and the giving brochure. I remember his telling us in Bible Study that, in Christianity, the meaning of “I believe” is more

expressively stated as “I hold in my heart.” For me that imparted a strength to my faith I had not experienced before.

Fr. Dan instituted our Lenten Home Masses and having services every day of Holy Week. He said that he felt it was one of the best ways to open up the depth of experience of all that happened during that week and it certainly did for those of us who walked that path. He guided us through our 50th Anniversary celebration and expanded our horizons with Thanksgiving and Easter dinners, the Blue Christmas service and the Veterans Day service in the garden (with bagpipes, color guard, reading of names and the playing of Taps). During his tenure at St. Francis we began our participation in assisting migrants at the border and supporting a refugee family; the St. Francis Stephen

*continued next page*

Ministers formed and community music events began to be hosted at the church; beautiful Evensong services have taken place. And our Imago Dei School support started. He has enriched the life of the Parish in so many different ways.

It warms my heart to think of Fr. Dan and Phyllis' love of animals and how it has been visible in the Blessing of Animals services and their fostering of dogs from The Animal League—as well as the many animal stories and videos found on their Facebook pages. It would be hard to miss seeing their sense of adventure expressed in their zip-lining, sky diving, motor-cycling, etc., etc. I know we have all appreciated and enjoyed their wholehearted joining in all our social activities—and who can forget their Halloween costumes?

Fr. Dan and Phyllis have experienced their own difficult times with health issues. I am amazed at how seamlessly they both persevered during those times. They have added so much to our community both through their service to the church and Phyllis' professional counselling. They certainly have exemplified for us and the community what it is “to live as “Christ's heart and hands in the world.” They have chosen to live with kindness, love and joy. To say that we will miss them is an understatement. We will keep them in our hearts and prayers and will be forever grateful that they have been such a significant part of our lives. Here's wishing them God's blessings and all good things as they journey into retirement.

*Do we have...*

**your@e-mail.address?**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Margaret Murphy
- 3 Seth Lee Foster
- 4 Patty Russell
- 5 Barry Sheridan  
Ernie Wassmann  
Theresa Bonser  
Fred Junggren
- 6 Jenica Hisko  
Joyce Hayes  
Sharlyn Matthews
- 7 Joyce Remillard
- 8 Margaret Hennel  
John Packer
- 10 Margaret Ward  
Diane Schwarzmman
- 11 Pris Junggren  
Robert Thomas  
Ken Breitenbucher
- 12 Arlene Stremming
- 14 Roger Ward
- 16 Kathleen Keller  
Beverly Krumwiede
- 18 Barney Foster  
Norma Pool  
Bonnie Kleeberg
- 19 Jeannie North
- 20 Victor Chavez  
Janis Gallagher  
Joan Jakubiak  
Nancy Allen
- 21 Charles Gardner  
Marsha Sherry
- 22 Shirley Law  
Keith Workman  
Steve Hickman
- 23 Marie LeRoy
- 25 Mary Calhoun  
Lee Cornelison  
Helen Mullaly

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Arnie Bergulnd & Darlene Gregory
- 4 Victor & Terri Chavez
- 10 Carol & Elwood McPhetres  
Patty & Daniel Ryan
- 13 Mitch & Pat Ghoca
- 16 Bruce Folkers & Jan Gaylord
- 24 Leon & Shoo Adams

## 2019 Parish Statistics

### Baptisms

Darrin Dale Hoiland, Jr.

### Deaths

Rod Thompson

Maggie Covert

Nilo Larriva

### Transfers In

Ford & Kathy Demming

## *Need a ride to a Parish Event?*

Our St. Francis Men's Group is offering rides to those in need of transportation to Parish events. If you are unable to provide your own transport and would like to schedule a ride, please call the Parish Office, 625-1370.

## *Seekers Discussion Group*

The current book for the Seekers Discussion Group is SEVEN TYPES OF ATHEISM. This will be completed on the Last Thursday in February—the 28th. During the month we will be planning the project for March. Any suggestions will be considered, so please make your ideas known to Joan Archibald or Anne Charter. This group meets each Thursday at 12:30 PM in the Conference Room. Sessions end at 1:50 PM for those who participate in the St. Francis Parish Choir. Everyone is welcome at any meeting. For additional information, please call Anne Charter at 625-9591.

*Parish Offices will be closed . . .*

President's Day

Monday, 18 February



## *Immigration Presentation*

The news today is dominated by rhetoric about the current immigration situation, and many of us have strong opinions on this topic. But can we really say that we have all the facts about immigration in this country well in hand? Do we understand how our immigration system works? Do we know how it has developed over the years and what the laws and regulations are that guide immigration today?

In the interest of promoting greater understanding of our immigration system, the St. Francis Refugee and Border Ministry group is hosting a fact-based presentation providing an overview of US Immigration on Tuesday, February 12, at 2 PM in the Parish Hall, presented by Alyson Ball. Alyson, a winter resident of Green Valley and a volunteer with the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville, VA when not here in Green Valley, has done extensive research on the topic of US Immigration and expertly presents background information on this issue. Come and hear from her about the history of US immigration, our current immigration laws and procedures, and the national immigration questions we face today. The presentation is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors to come and learn more about the basics of immigration with you!

## *A Rare Opportunity*

J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion will be sung by True Concord Voices and Orchestra at 7 pm, Friday, February 22, at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley. Opportunities to hear this work—one of the greatest musical achievements of all time—are very rare, especially with such superb forces and right in our own backyard. Don't miss it. Gerald has tickets priced at \$25 and \$40, or you may purchase them through the Green Valley Chamber of Commerce.

## *Stephen Ministry*

Stephen Ministers: just what are they, who are they, and what do they do? Simply put we are lay people from the Parish who are trained to walk beside someone who is going through a difficult time in his or her life. We meet, we listen, we provide a compassionate ear, a shoulder to lean on, and confidentiality.

If you think you might like to explore becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of us: Marybeth Bates (206-259-0361 or emmy-mex@yahoo.com); BrandE Faupell (435-512-0286 or bfaupell@gmail.com) or Judy Craig (520-237-0466 or judyismynname@zoho.com).

## *Recycle*

We are able to recycle used ink jet cartridges at \$2 each, realizing over \$600 a year toward office supplies. Recycle boxes are located in the Parish Office and just inside the southwest door of the Parish Hall.

## *Home Communion*

If you, or someone you know, would like to have the Sacrament brought to you at home, please call the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to arrange for this service. We are very happy to bring the Sacrament to anyone who cannot attend church for any reason.

## **Reserving Meeting Time and Space at Saint Francis**

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Administrative Assistant Bethel Klein. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Bethel know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

## **Getting Your Event into Parish Publications**

Sunday Bulletin notices should be given to the Parish Administrator by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

*Franciscan Staff* material should be given to the Parish Administrator NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

## **Address Changes**

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Rae Turberg in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
600 South La Cañada Drive  
Green Valley AZ 85614

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Green Valley AZ  
Permit No. 9